## Before the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance

In the matter of: Teresa D. Jefferies 413 West Rutledge Avenue Gaffney, South Carolina 29341. SCDI File Number 2002-113789.

Default Order Revoking Resident Insurance Agent's License

This matter comes before me pursuant to a Letter of Allegation and Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing served, as required within S.C. Code Ann. § 38-3-170 (Supp. 2000), by the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance upon Teresa D. Jefferies by both certified mail, return receipt requested, and by regular mail on September 25, 2002.

By that letter, Teresa Jefferies was informed of her right to request a public hearing upon the allegations of impropriety contained within the letter against her. Further, she was warned that her failure to make a timely, written request would result in my summary revocation of her license to do business as a resident insurance agent within the State of South Carolina. Despite that warning, Ms. Jefferies has failed to respond to the Department's letter. She also has failed to provide the Department with a current address in violation of S.C. Code Ann. § 38-43-107 (1989), and the United States Postal Service returned as undeliverable the letter sent by the Department. On November 6, 2002, therefore, counsel for the Department filed an Affidavit of Default, and the entire matter was submitted directly to me for my summary decision based solely on the record.

The letter alleged, and I now find as fact, that while licensed to do business as a resident insurance agent within the State of South Carolina, Teresa D. Jefferies was convicted by the South Carolina Circuit Court of General Sessions, Cherokee County, of "Criminal Conspiracy", on or about May 6, 2002, in <u>The State v. Teresa D. Jefferies</u>, Criminal Docket Number 2002GS1100255.

S.C. Code Ann. § 38-43-130 (Supp. 2000) provides: "The director or his designee may revoke or suspend an agent's license after ten day's notice...when it appears that an agent has been convicted of a crime of moral involving moral turpitude...." The crime of Criminal Conspiracy involves moral turpitude. <u>In re Derrick</u>, 301 S.C. 367, 392 S.E.2d 180 (1990).

In accordance with my findings of fact, and considering Teresa D. Jefferies's failure to avail herself of her opportunity to be heard, I now conclude, as a matter of law, that Teresa Jefferies was convicted of a crime of moral turpitude, and that her resident insurance agent license should be revoked.

This administrative disciplinary order is a public record subject to the disclosure requirements of the State of South Carolina's *Freedom of Information Act*, S.C. Code Ann. §§ 30-40-10, *et seq.* (1991 and Supp. 2000). Nothing contained within this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit or to deprive any person of any private right of action under the law. Nothing contained within this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit, in any manner, the criminal jurisdiction of any law enforcement or judicial officer. Nothing contained within this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit the statutory duty, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 38-3-110 (4) (Supp. 2000), of the Director of Insurance, exercised either directly or through the Department of Insurance, to "report to the Attorney General or other appropriate law enforcement officials criminal violations of the law relative to the business of insurance or the provisions of this title which he considers necessary to report."

It is therefore ordered that Teresa D. Jefferies's license to transact business as a resident insurance agent within the State of South Carolina be, and is hereby, revoked, and that no license, issued through the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance is to be issued to her.

It is further ordered that a copy of this order be transmitted to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners for distribution to its current member states and to each insurer for which Teresa D. Jefferies is currently licensed, through the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance, as a resident insurance agent within the State of South Carolina.

This order takes effect upon the date of my signature below.

Ernst N. Csiszar

Director

6 November 2002, at Columbia, South Carolina

## Before the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance

In the matter of:

SCDOI File Number 2002-113789.

Teresa D. Jefferies 413 West Rutledge Avenue Gaffney, South Carolina 29341. Affidavit of Default

Personally appeared before me T. Douglas Concannon, who, being duly sworn, stated that at all times relevant to this Affidavit of Default he was an attorney representing the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance in this administrative action. He further stated the following:

The Department served notice on Teresa D. Jefferies at the address detailed above by a Letter of Allegation and Notice of Opportunity for a Public Hearing that the Department would request the Director of Insurance to summarily revoke her license to act as a resident insurance agent within the State of South Carolina in thirty days. The Department served the Notice, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 38-3-170 (2002), by "depositing it in the United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the last known address of the person and registered with the return receipt requested." That Notice further informed Ms. Jefferies of her opportunity, within thirty days, to request in writing a public hearing.

The United States Postal Service effected service of the Notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, and by regular mail, on or about September 25, 2002. Ms. Jefferies has made no request for a public hearing or any other response to the Notice. The time in which to do so has expired. She is now in default.

T. Douglas Concannon Associate General Counsel

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 6th day of November, 2002.

Steven R. DuBois

Notary Public for the State of South Carolina My Commission Expires May 10, 2009 South Carolina Department of Insurance Post Office Box 100105

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